

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

18. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling harmful organisms, which comprises applying to the harmful organisms, or to an environment where the harmful organisms reside, an effective amount of a formulation, said formulation comprising a combination of at least one agrochemically active compound and a polymer, said polymer ~~that comprise~~ comprising at least one functional group which interacts electrostatically with said agrochemically active compound through the formation of hydrogen bonds, ~~whereby~~ wherein said agrochemically active compound ~~is applied to the harmful organisms or to the environment where said harmful organisms reside~~ is released in a controlled manner.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the agrochemically active compound is selected from the group consisting of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, growth regulators, safeners, molluscicides, acaricides and nematocides.

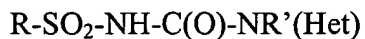
20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the agrochemically active compound is a herbicide, as a plant growth regulator or a safener.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20 wherein the herbicide is an ALS inhibitor, a (hetero)aryloxyaryloxyalkylcarboxylic acids, HPPDO inhibitor, a plant growth regulator selected from the group consisting of indolylacetic acid, indolylbutyric acid and auxins, a safener selected from the group consisting of mefenpyr-diethyl, 5,5-biphenyl-2-isoxazoline-3-carboxylic acid, and the acids, esters or salts of the foregoing.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the ALS inhibitor is a sulfonylureas or a hydroxybenzonitriles; the (hetero)aryloxyaryloxyalkylcarboxylic

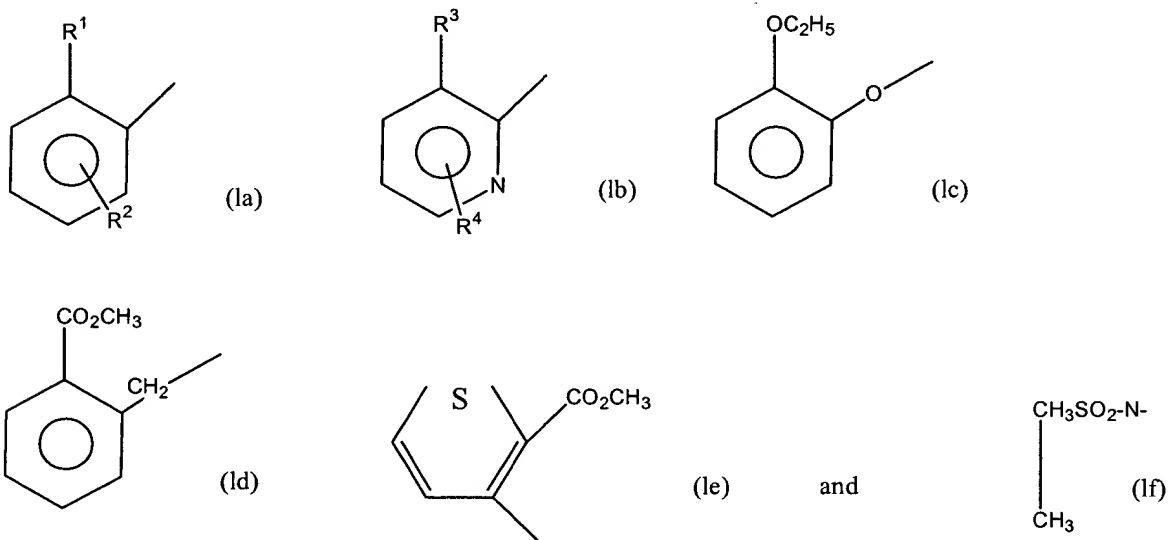
acids is fenoxaprop-ethyl, dichlofop, clodinafop-propargyl, fluazifop, and the acid or ester derivatives of these compounds, HPPDO inhibitor is mesotrione, sulcotrione, a cyclohexanedione oximes.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the sulfonylureas is a compound of the formula

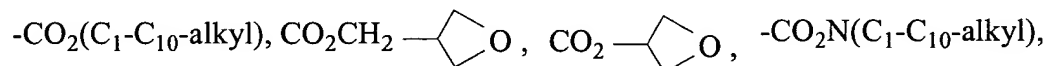


in which R' is hydrogen or a (C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl radical,

R is a radical selected from the group consisting of the compounds corresponding to formulae (la) to (lf)



in which R¹ is selected from the group consisting of

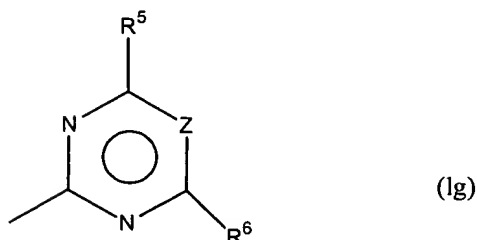


SO₂(C₁-C₄-alkyl), CF₃, -O(C₁-C₁₀-alkyl), -OCH₂CH₂Cl, CH₂CH₂CF₃, and halogen

and

R^2, R^3, R^4 , independently of one another are H, CH_3 , -OH, $-O(C_1-C_{10}\text{-alkyl})$, $-NH(C_1-C_{10}\text{-alkyl})$, $-N(C_1-C_{10}\text{-alkyl})_2$, $NHCHO$, $-NHCO_2(C_1-C_2\text{-alkyl})$, $-CH_2NHSO_2CH_3$, or halogen,

Het is a compound of the formula



in which R^5, R^6 independently of one another are halogen,

$-O(C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl})$, $C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl}$, $-NH(C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl})$, $-N(C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl})_2$, $-OCH_2CF_3$, $-OCHCl_2$,

and

Z is N or a CH group.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the polymer is soluble, dispersible or emulsifiable in water and/or organic solvent.

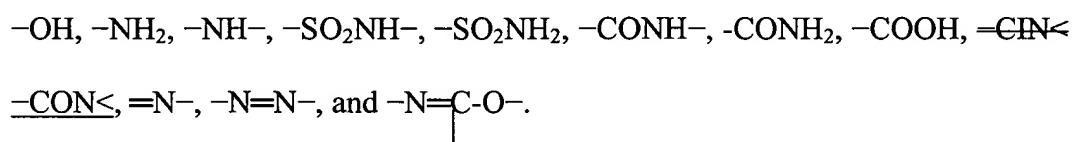
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the polymer is soluble in polar protic and/or polar aprotic organic solvents and/or water, and has an absorption rate or penetration rate of $<50\%$ in 24 h.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein the polymer has a molecular weight of about 500 and the amount of polymer to agrochemically active substance is from about 0.001:1 to about 1:0.001, by weight.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the polymer has a molecular weight of about 1,000 to 1,000,000 and the amount of polymer to agrochemically active substance is from about 0.01:1 to about 1:0.01, by weight.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein the ratio is from 0.1:1 to 1:0.1.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the functional group is selected from the group consisting of



30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polymers based on vinyl, acrylic and allyl monomers and alkali metal silicates, polyamides both of the type prepared by condensation of diamines with dicarboxylic acids and of the type prepared by the addition of lactams, polymers of polyhydric unsaturated alcohols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl acetates and partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetates, polysaccharides and alkyl polysaccharides, xanthane derivatives, polyols, adducts of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol to polyvalent amines, polycarbonates, polyaspartates, polystyrene sulfonates and polystyrene sulfates, polyvinyl sulfates and polyvinyl phosphates.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein the polymers based on vinyl, acrylic and allyl monomers and alkali metal silicates are polyvinyl alcohol, poly(meth)acrylic acid poly(meth)acrylamide[,]; the polymers based on vinyl, acrylic and allyl monomers and alkali metal silicates[,], are polyvinyl alcohol poly(meth)acrylic acid[,], and poly(meth)acrylamide[,]; the monomers of the polymers of unsaturated dicarboxylic acids[,], are

maleic acid[,]; the monomers in the polymers of polyhydric unsaturated alcohols are 1,2-butenediol and 1,4-butenediol[,]; the alkyl polysaccharides are hydroxymethylcelluloses[,]; the monomers in the polyols are polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol or block copolymers of polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol and their ethers[,]; and the polyvalent amino in the adducts of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol is ethylene diamine.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the formulation further comprises a second agrochemically active compounds, a surfactant, a fertilizer or a customary adjuvant.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the formulation comprises a herbicide and a safener and/or a plant growth regulator.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the agrochemically active compound is iodosulfuron or a salt thereof and the polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the harmful organism is a plant.